

# **Kentucky Environmental Education Council**

**Summer Meeting July 28, 2004  
Berry Hill Mansion – Frankfort, KY**

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

Members Present: Horace Brown, Frances Carter, Robin Chandler, Wade Helm, Greg Higdon, Jeff Hohman, Kurt Mason, Yvonne Meichtry, Evelyn Morgan

Members not present: Zilch

Staff: Jane Eller, John LeFevre

Mr. Brown, the Council Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Mr. Brown then thanked Jeff Hohman for hosting the prior council meeting at East Kentucky Power and for taking the council members on a field trip to see amphibians and reptiles in the Daniel Boone National Forest. Mr. Brown then asked for the passage of the previous two council meeting minutes from January & April. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Frances Carter. Jeff Hohman seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**Budget-** Mr. LeFevre informed the members that the KEEC budget

**Organizational Status** – Ms Eller requested opinions from the members regarding whether the agency should remain a member of the Education Cabinet or request a move to the Environmental & Public Protection Cabinet (EPPC). From conversations with Education Cabinet Secretary Virginia Fox, Ms. Eller stated that the KEEC might be in a position to recommend that we stay in Education or move to EPP. Ms. Eller said we might be a higher priority in EPP but that she felt comfortable with Education and knew Secretary Fox and was very impressed with her and with her management style. She said her only concern was that, in the past, our agency has just never seemed to be a very high priority for the Education Cabinet simply because we are just one more “type” of education rather than pivotal to the work of the Cabinet.

Ms. Eller said that one consideration is that if the house version of the state budget were to be passed it would include a provision requiring any agency with five or fewer staff members to be reviewed by the Personnel Cabinet to justify the agency’s existence. Agency reviews would occur on an annual basis. Therefore, it may benefit the KEEC to combine with another agency at EPP or elsewhere in the unlikely event that this stipulation became part of the budget.

Ms. Eller informed members that she has had very positive meetings with the Education Cabinet Secretary Virginia Fox. Mr. Brown as well as Mr. Mason felt that ideally the KEEC should remain in the Education Cabinet, but admitted that all options should be

considered especially if KEEC's existence was in jeopardy. Ms. Eller also stated that ideally the KEEC belonged in the Education Cabinet. Mr. Brown said he felt we were better placed in Education and asked that, if it looked like we might move to EPPC, that the Council be contacted and it be discussed in more detail. Mr. LeFevre said the staff would certainly do so.

**Certification Workshops-** Ms. Eller told Council members that the Nonformal EE Certification Workshops were going very, very well. Forty people are enrolled in the class and they are expected to finish the course work and assessments by March of next year. She said another reason to raise money this year was to help fund the next class of applicants for certification.

**Youth Environmental Summit** – Ms. Eller informed members that the Youth Environmental Summit was very successful and resulted in unexpected media coverage including an article in the Courier Journal as well as television spots on various Louisville affiliates. Despite its success, it is the intention of the KEEC not to be the lead agency for the summit in 2005 since the summit demands approximately 1/3 of KEEC's staff time. We will continue to participate but at less active level. Northern Kentucky has been chosen as a sight for 2005 and the topic will more than likely be runoff pollution. At this point in time the Division of Water along with the Transportation Cabinet are discussing funding next year's Summit, including possibly paying a coordinator to take on some of the logistical work.

**Master Plan** – Ms. Eller said that the Master Plan revision has been completed. Creative Services is currently working on the Master Plan layout. Once finished, it will go to the printer and be ready for dissemination. The revised plan will be printed using two colors instead of the four used for the original document. It will also not include the environmental literacy survey because we want to publish it separately so it will have more impact.

**Statewide Environmental Literacy Survey** – Ms. Eller informed members that the environmental literacy survey, which we are legislatively mandated to do every five years, would be conducted by the University of Kentucky in August. This year is the fifth anniversary of the first environmental literacy survey and results from the new survey will be compared with the original.

**Endorsement** – Dr. Meichtry informed members that Murray State University would have the ability to begin curriculum for an Endorsement in Environmental Education by the spring of 2005. She also stated that other Universities such as NKU and WKU would come online in about one year. Ms. Eller said one of the big challenges for KEEC this year is to begin raising money to do the faculty development needed to support both the endorsement and the new requirement that undergraduate teachers receive preparation to teach EE.

**KUPEE** – Ms. Eller stated to members that at this point in time the Council staff is currently working on MOA's for the disbursement of funds to participating universities

before the end of May. This fiscal year, each university received only \$5,000. At this time it is not known how much funding will be available for KUPPE for next year.

**Publications** – Ms. Eller announced that the KEEC had completed the Kentucky Guide to Developing Outdoor Learning Areas. The document is available from KEEC in CD format. Mr. Mason asked if the guide would be available on the website and with the school facilities manual. Ms. Eller responded that it would be included in both.

**Inquiry Demonstration Schools** – Ms. Eller informed the Council members that she is working on finding Inquiry Demonstration Schools in Kentucky. The State Education and Environment Roundtable would administer the Inquiry Demonstration program. Ms. Eller expressed concern in finding enough schools that were willing to participate in the program.

**New Business** - Ms. Eller informed members that KEEC has been asked by the Bellsouth Employees Association to work with them on the development of outdoor classrooms at various schools across the state. She said she is trying to get KAEE involved in this project.

Ms. Eller asked Council members if there were questions about other current projects. There being none, and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is July 28. Place TBA.

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Approved  
Wm. Horace Brown, Chair

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Date

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Respectfully Submitted  
Jane W. Eller  
Executive Director

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Date